

## Characteristics of Organisms

**K-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of organisms. (Life Science)**

### **K-2.2 Identify examples of organisms and nonliving things.**

**Taxonomy level:** 1.1-A Remember Factual Knowledge

**Previous/Future knowledge:** As with other indicators at this grade level, students will experience their first formal introduction to important science concepts. These concepts will be expanded as the students advance in their science education.

**It is essential for students to** know the difference between living things and nonliving things.

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** This is not directly mentioned again so it is essential for this concept to be fully understood at this grade level.

#### *Organism*

- Any living thing that needs food, water, air, shelter or space to survive and can make a new living thing like itself.
- It grows and changes during its life.
- Examples of organisms are plants or animals.

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** There are many misconceptions concerning living and nonliving things at this developmental level. To assist students in their understanding whether things are living or nonliving, they should ask one of these four essential questions:

- Does it need air?
- Does it need water?
- Does it need food?
- Does it need shelter/space?

#### *Nonliving thing*

- Any thing that does not need air, water, food, shelter, or space to survive.
- It cannot make new things like itself.
- Examples of nonliving things may be wood, rocks, soil, air, water, and clothes.

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** Another misconception may happen with objects made of wood. At one time the wood was a living tree. However, if you ask the four essential questions, the wood can now be categorized as nonliving.

**It is not essential for students to** go beyond this level of knowledge at this time.

#### **Assessment Guidelines:**

The objective of this indicator is to *identify* organisms as living or nonliving; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to recognize whether an object is an organism or nonliving thing based its characteristics.